



BWA FINDS PERMANENT HOME

After numerous meeting and tireless research BWA has found a permanent home. Recognizing that the US Women's Bureau is housed under the US Department of Labor we found that these agencies assist each other when applying for federal funds.

With the guidance of one amazing women Maria Connelly who is the director of the Department of Labor in Guam we will have every opportunity to achieve our mission.

Kudos to Maria and her staff.

HELPING WOMEN IN PRISON

In October of 2007 I had the opportunity to visit the women's correctional facility in Mangilo at the invitation of its acting Director JP Palacios. I was pleased to see the facility was well kept but notice the lack of programs to prepare these women for there return to the community. Since then the women's bureau has contributed two computers and several boxes of books for its library. Though our women's bureau has no funding we were able to locate these items at no cost. Thanks to the DOL, Chamorro Land Trust and the Guam Public Library for stepping up to the plate and Real Women magazine for donating a free subscription to there magazine.

We would also like to recognize our women officers who serve in these areas. Your courage and dedication is honorable.

Our next step is to provide counseling for these women that will prepare them for the bigger picture, learning a trade. We have made contact with the Guam Community College and the Guam Contractors association to provide instructors who will conduct classes in the women's facility.



CHRISTMAS AT DYA

While visiting the DOC women's facility I was amazed to learn the percentage per ration of women being incarcerated each year is double that of men. I also learned that quite a few of these women had once been a resident's of the Department of Youth Affairs facility. It was obvious that my next visit was the DYA. Thanks to the Director Chris Duenas and Mr. Taitano for allowing the BWA to host a Christmas Party with food, gifts, demonstration, games and song. What a great experience. We had the opportunity to listen to these young women's dreams, share in their lives' and allowed us in. A special thank you goes to Michael Taitano for sharing her talent and time for this event. And again thank you to Real Women magazine for donating their magazine to these young women.

Our next step is to help these young girls to achieve their dreams through the collaboration of successful women sharing their experience and hardship to achieve their goals. We hope this will be the beginning of a program that will inspire our youth to succeed.